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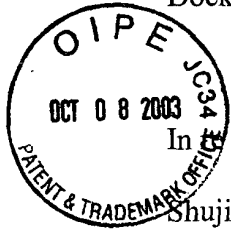
OCT 09 2003

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PATENT

Docket No.: 57454-248

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In Application of

Shuji NAKAO, et al.

Serial No.: 09/986,084

Filed: November 07, 2001

For: FOCUS MONITORING METHOD, FOCUS MONITORING APPARATUS, AND
METHOD OF MAUFACTURING SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

: Customer Number: 20277
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: Confirmation Number: 4719
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: Group Art Unit: 1756
:
: Examiner: C. Young
:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop IDS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

CERTIFICATION PARAGRAPH

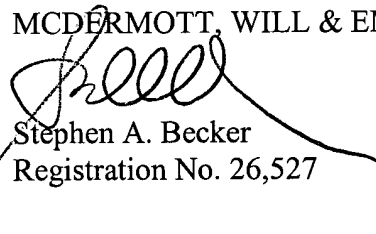
The undersigned certifies that, to the best of his knowledge, each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement as described in 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

Each non-English language reference was cited in a corresponding foreign application search report or office action and its relevance discussed therein. A copy of the foreign search report or office action, together with an English language version thereof, is attached for the Examiner's information.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.
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